

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAHA 00081 071728Z

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ACTION EA-06

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R 070931Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1627

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

CDR USARJ CAMP ZAMA

USAGO FORT BUCKNER

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 081

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: ARMY REDUCTION IN FORCE

REF: TOKYO 2949

SUMMARY: IN REGARD TO THE NEXT MAJOR ARMY RIF OF OKINAWANS,
IT WOULD BE HIGHLY ADVANTAGEOUS SIMULTANEOUSLY TO ANNOUNCE
BASE RELEASES AND TO ANNOUNCE THE RIF'S IN SMALLER INCREMENTS.
IF NOT, DO IT AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. JUDGING FROM THE LOCAL LEVEL, I STRONGLY AGREE WITH THE

PAGE 2 RHAIBQA3288 C O N F I D E N T I A L

THRUST OF THE EMBASSY'S REFTEL ON THE NEED FOR A COORDINATED
INTERSERVICE APPROACH TO THE CHANGES IN OKINAWAN DEPLOYMENTS,
AND ON THE ADVISABILITY BEFORE OR WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON RIF'S
OF ANNOUNCING AN INTENTION TO RETURN ADDITIONAL BASE PROPERTIES.
AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, A FAVORITE LEFTIST CHARGE IS THAT THE
U.S. FORCES FIRE LOCAL EMPLOYEES BUT DO NOT MAKE COMPARABLE
RELEASE OF BASE HOLDINGS. GOVERNOR YARA MAINTAINS PUBLICLY
THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT RIF'S WHICH ARE NOT MATCHED BY MILITARY
LAND RETURNS. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FURTHER MASSIVE RIF'S NOT
PARALLED WITH BASE CONSOLIDATIONS WILL FACILITATE LEFTIST EFFORTS
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PAGE 02 NAHA 00081 071728Z

AGAINST US. AND WITH THE OPENING OF EXPO CASTING THE LIGHT OF

NATIONAL ATTENTION AGAIN ON OKINAWA, OUR CRITICS HAVE MORE CHANCE OF GAINING OUTSIDE SYMPATHY.

2. IN PRACTICE, WE ARE IN A GOOD POSITION TO GO PUBLIC ON FURTHER CONSOLIDATIONS. CLEARLY THE ABANDONED YOMITAN AIRFIELD, THE CHATAN OCEAN FRONT, HAMBY AIRFIELD, THE MARINE CAMPS LIKE HAUGE SOON TO BE EVACUATED, ARE ALL CANDIDATES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE RELEASE. I WOULD HOPE WE CAN PRESS THE GOJ AS WELL AS OURSELVES TO MOVE QUICKLY ON THIS BEFORE THE RIF NEWS IS OUT.

3. I WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT WE DO NOT ANNOUNCE THE 3,400 RIF

PAGE 3 RHAIBQA3288 C O N F I D E N T I A L

HERE ALL AT ONCE. THAT FIGURE IS FAR HIGHER THAN ANY FIGURE ON RIF'S HITHERTO ANNOUNCED AND IS SENSATIONAL IN SIZE. ON THE OTHER HAND, FIGURES FROM 50 UP TO A THOUSAND HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED SO LONG THAT EVERYBODY, INCLUDING ME, IS SOMEWHAT NUMB AND CONFUSED AS TO WHETHER WE ARE TALKING ABOUT PAST, CURRENT, OR FUTURE RIF'S. IF THE 3,400 WERE BROKEN DOWN INTO SUCCESSIVE FIGURES OF ABOUT A THOUSAND EACH, OR LESS, THE PUBLIC IMPACT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY DULLED. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHOULD STATE THAT FURTHER HEAVY RIF'S ARE ANTICIPATED. ALL OKINAWANS ARE AWARE OF THE HEAVY DRAWDOWN OF OUR ARMY HERE AND ANTICIPATE SUCH RIF'S.

4. I WOULD QUALIFY THE ABOVE, HOWEVER, IF THERE IS DANGER THAT HERE OR IN WASHINGTON THE FIGURE OF 3,400 WILL LEAK. IF THAT IS A REAL POSSIBILITY, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR GENERAL DAVID, THE AREA COORDINATOR, TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE COMPLETE RIF FIGURES AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE WITH GOVERNOR YARA. IN THAT CASE, OR IF IT IS NECESSARY TO ANNOUNCE IT AS A TOTAL LUMP, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR OUR INTERESTS ON THIS ISLAND TO GET THE WHOLE THING OUT IN THE OPEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO HOPEFULLY THE DUST WILL SETTLE SOME BEFORE JAPANESE GET INTERESTED AGAIN IN OKINAWA AND THE BIG SHOW HERE AS EXPO OPENS IN JULY.

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